Statement of Mr. Strobe Talbott regarding Nuclear Status to India/Pakistan

1331. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott declared as reported in the Statesman dated the 13th November, 1998, on the 12th November, 1998 that, "We do not, and will not concede, even by implication, that India and Pakistan have established themselves as nuclear weapons States under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty defines a nuclear weapon State as one which conducted a nuclear explosion before January 1, 1967. This obviously does not apply to India, which in any case has not signed the NPT. However, Government have stated that India is a nuclear weapon state in the sense that we possess nuclear weapons. This is simply a statement of fact. It is neither a conferment that we seek, nor is it a status for others to grant.

Film Festival in Mumbai

1332. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the film festival scheduled to be held in November-December, 1998 in Mumbai has since been postponed/cancelled; and

(b) if so, the details of circumstances leading thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The film festival whcih was scheduled to be held in Mumbai in November-December, 1998 is organised by the Mumbai Academy of Moving Images (MAMI), a private body. The Central Government is not involved in the organising of this festival. However, it has been ascertained from the Film Federation of India that the festival has been postponed due to paucity of funds.

Installation of Common Towers in the Country

1333. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy decisions of Government for installation of common towers in the country for giving microwave facilities for telecommunication and television facilities from the same tower;

(b) the cost of reduction estimated in this behalf;

(c) which States were selected to provide this facility;

(d) the number of such towers that were installed in Himachal Pradesh and with what result in each case; and

(e) whether all these towers are functioning properly, if not, the reasons therefore and whether any representation has been received in this behalf; if so, the details thereof and by when these towers would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Utilisation of Department of Telecommunication (DoT) tower for TV transmitters antenna is done wherever possible subject to suitability for both Doordarshan and DoT.

(b) Cost of a guyed mast, whcih is about 1 lakh, is the saving possible by